

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated October 5, 2004. Claims 1 to 48 and 109 to 112 are pending in the application, with Claims 109 to 112 having been added. Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 20, 22, 24 and 33 have been amended, and Claims 1, 14, 20, 22, 24, 33, 109 and 111 are in independent form. Favorable review and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 20 to 23 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. Since each of these claims depend on one of independent Claims 1 and 14, Applicants have rewritten Claims 20 and 22 into independent form based on Claim 1, and have added independent Claims 109 and 111 based on Claim 14. Consequently, independent Claims 20, 22, 109 and 111 are seen to be in condition for allowance. Claims 21, 23, 110 and 112, which depend on these independent claims, are also seen to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 8, 10 to 13, 24 to 27 and 29 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,974,236 (Sherman); Claims 4, 5, 9, 14 to 19, 28, 33 to 36 and 46 to 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sherman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,287 (Diepstraten); and Claims 37 to 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sherman and Diepstraten in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,609 (Nago). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns communication stations that are adapted to communicate with each other when at least one of the communication stations supplies a synchronisation signal. The station that supplies the synchronisation signal then

functions in base station mode, and the stations not supplying a synchronisation signal synchronise on the synchronisation signal function in mobile station mode. A mobile station receives a request from a first base station for transmission by the mobile station of a message to a communication station for which the message is intended. According to one feature of the invention, the base station uses a single frequency, and the mobile stations synchronize to the base station using the single frequency.

By virtue of the foregoing, in which the base station uses a single frequency, and the mobile stations synchronize to the base station using the single frequency, the number of communication frequencies used by the base station is reduced, thereby simplifying communication between communication stations.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method of communicating between communication stations adapted to communicate with each other when at least one of the communication stations supplies a synchronisation signal, the station then functioning in base station mode using a single frequency and the stations not supplying a synchronisation signal but synchronising using the single frequency on a synchronisation signal sent by a station functioning in base station mode then functioning in mobile station mode. The method includes a request operation during which a first base station transmits, to a mobile station, a request for the storage in memory and transmission, by the mobile station, of a message to a communication station for which the message is intended and which is not synchronised with or not using the single frequency with the first base station.

In a similar manner, independent Claim 24 as amended is directed to a device.

Independent Claim 14 as amended is directed to a method of communicating between communication stations adapted to communicate with each other when at least one of the communication stations supplies a synchronisation signal, the station then functioning in base station mode using a single frequency and the stations not supplying a synchronisation signal but synchronising using the single frequency on a synchronisation signal sent by a station functioning in base station mode then functioning in mobile station mode. The method includes a first operation of receiving a message, during which a mobile station synchronised with a first base station receives a message coming from the first base station. The method also includes an operation of detachment and attachment, during which the mobile station synchronises with a second base station, without the two base stations synchronising with each other, the two base stations then not being synchronized with each other. In addition, the method includes a second transmission operation, during which the mobile station transmits the message to the second base station.

In a similar manner, independent Claim 33 is directed to a device.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. In particular, the Sherman, Diepstraten and Nago patents are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature that a base station uses a single frequency, and that the mobile stations synchronize to the base station using the single frequency.

As understood by Applicants, Sherman describes an integrated communication network that is consolidated from a plurality of smaller sub-networks, each having their respective central destination communication nodes, and a plurality of remote communication nodes. The sub-networks can operate each at different radio frequencies.

Each communication node in a sub-network can communicate with other communication nodes in the same sub-network including the central communication node of the sub-network at its own radio frequency. The central communication nodes also have "frequency agile" transceivers capable of transmitting and receiving DMG's at the sub-networks's frequency and a master network frequency. See Sherman, column 18, lines 40 to 66.

As such, each of the central communication nodes of Sherman communicate using two separate frequencies: one frequency is used for communication within the sub-network of the central communication node, and another frequency is used within a master network for communicating with other sub-networks. Sherman is therefore not seen to disclose or suggest that a base station uses a single frequency, and that mobile stations synchronize to the base station using the single frequency. In addition, Sherman is not seen to disclose or suggest the attendant benefits provided by using a single frequency, such as simplified communication between communication stations.

Diepstraten and Nago have also been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Sherman.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 14, 20, 22, 24, 33, 109 and 111 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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